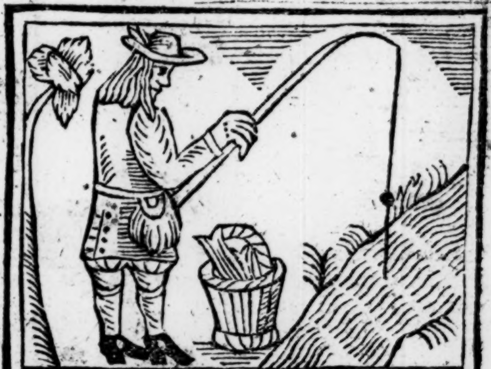
The Anglers Delight:

Containing
The whole ART of Neat and Clean
ANGLING;

Wherein is Taught the readieſt Way to
Take all ſorts of FISH, from the Pike to
the Minnow, together with their proper
Baits, Haunts, and Time of FISHING
for them, whether in *Mere*, *Pond*, or *River*.

As alſo, The Method of Fiſhing in *Hackney*
River, & the Names of all the Beſt Stands
there; with the manner of Making all ſorts
of Good Tackle Fit for any Water whatſoever. The like never before in Print.

By *WILLIAM GILBERT*, Gent.



London, Printed for *W. Birch* at the *Peacock*
at the Lower end of *Cheapſide*, 1676.

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With Allowance,

October 20*th.* 1674.

Roger L'Eſtrange.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, and Worthily Admired Sr. *RICHARD FISHER.*

SInce it is Generally known, that no Man lives without Fault; but that We all Tranſgreſs daily, even againſt Our Soveraign Good, from whom notwithſtanding, we Receive Innumerable Benefits, with large Promiſes of Forgiveneſs: So in this Caſe, I have a Matter of Encouragement, that, although I may have offended,

fended, thus raſhly appearing, to offer Theſe following Lines to Your view, (no wayes to be compared to Your Great, and Maſculine Spirit;) yet that I ſhould not doubt of Your Obliviating this my preſent Offence; but alſo obtain (from Your Real Generoſity) a Favourable Acceptation, and Reception of theſe firſt-Fruits of my publick *Endeavours*: I have taken the Boldneſs to make this *Dedication*, hoping that my Preſumption (taken as an Error) may be underſtood to proceed from the Aſſurance of Countenance, under ſo worthy a Perſonage; where-by it may more ſafely appear upon the Stage of the World, encounter the greateſt Oppoſitions, and reſt Secure from the Cruelty of Envy.

The Great *God*, who hath hitherto Bleſſed You with Health and Means, continue the ſame, and multiply it to Your laſt Period: and when You ſhall Ceaſe to be among the Living, give You the full Fruition of Eternal Glory; So wiſheth,

SIR,

A Real Honourer of You, and all Your Worthy Family.

W. Gilbert.

To all the Ingenious
LOVERS & PRACTICERS
Of the moſt Noble Science of
ANGLING.

Kind Reader,

I *Know (and you know) that the Wits of this Age are Ripe, Accute, and Various, and how to pleaſe all Men, is a Task too great for my Undertaking ; I have here laid open the whole Art and Miſtery of* Clean, Neat, *and* Gentile Angling, *in a far more Plain, and Eaſie* *way, than ever was yet in Print; All from Experience, and not Borrowed from other Books, and many Things never before heard of, by moſt People: So that, if there be any Thing that may yield you Profit, Solace of Mind, Recreation of Spirit, or Content, I have my end, and ſhall rejoyce, and think my Time well ſpent; Otherwiſe I ſhall be troubled that there is Nothing worthy your Acceptance, and only intreat you to lay down the Book again, and there is no Harm done between you, and an Artiſt's Friend,*

W. G.

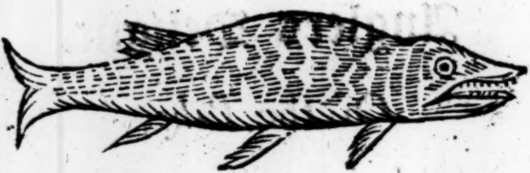
THE
Anglers Delight.

Of the *Pike*,

And how to Take Him ſeveral wayes.

THis *Pike* is the King and Commander of all Freſh-Water *Fiſh*; therefore I begin with him firſt: And he is Ravenous, that I my ſelf, at *BoatELY*, near *Oxford*, with my Trole, took a great Over-grown *Pike*, that was within an Inch of a Yard-long; and when he came to be opened, he had an other large one, of above a Quarter of a Yard-long, in his Belly: And I will, upon occaſion, bring evidence, that the

Pike, which was taken out of the others Belly, had a ſmall Bird that is uſed to lodge in the Reeds, in the Pouch of it: But no more of this. Now for my promiſe, which was, How to catch this

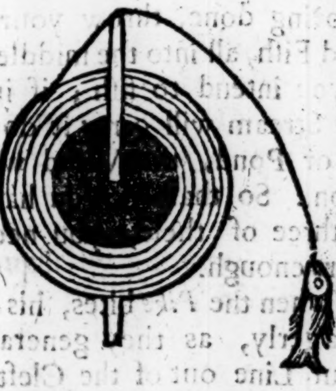


His feeding is generally of *Roach*, *Dace*, *Gudgeons*, or *Froggs*; but above all, he delighteth moſt in Fair *Gudgeons*: and where there is not ſtore of ſmall *Fiſh*, he feeds of a Weed called, *Pike-rell-Weed*.

Now your firſt way of Taking a *Pike*, that I ſhall teach, is, By a frixed Bait, which is done (if in a ſtanding Water) by having a Line of about twenty Yards long, made faſt to a ſtick, ſtuck in the ground; and having baited your Hook with a Live *Gudgeon*, *Roach*, or *Dace*, throw it as far as conveniently you can, or in the like-lieſt place you ſee for a *Pike*, leaving two Yards, or there-abouts, looſe upon the ground by your

Peg, that you may ſee when your Line is run out ſtrait; at which time be aſſured, that you have got a *Pike*. You may make uſe of as many Lines as you pleaſe, the more you Lay out, the like-lier you are to have the more Sport.

But if you would take a *Pike* in a River, or any other Moving Water, I will ſhew you the beſt way ever invented, which you may perceive by the Figure.



Take a piece of Cork, about little more than a quarter of an Inch thick, cut it round, as you ſee in the Figure, and then hollow it round the ſides, to lap or wind your Line in, which muſt be about twelve Yards; tye it faſt round the Cork, and tye a Hook to it, baited with a live Bait, as you ſee in the Figure: And when you have left ſo much of the Line, at the end the Fiſh hung to, as you think will reach half depth of the Water you intend to fiſh in, catch your Line in the Cleft of the Stick, which muſt be put through the Cork, as you ſee the Figure; and this will boy up your Bait, at any diſtance you place it.

This being done, throw your Cork, Line, and Fiſh, all into the middle of the Water you intend to fiſh; if in a River, the Stream will carry it down; in a Mere or Pond, the Wind will give it Motion: So that, if you have but two or three of theſe, you need not fear Sport enough.

Now, when the *Pike* bites, his ſnatching ſo eagerly, as they generally do, pulls your Line out of the Cleft in the Stick, and gives him the whole length of the Line, to pouch your Bait with: This being done, he will run up and down a little, but will preſently be tyred; but let him go whither he will, you need not fear; For, your Boy will continually be above Water.

Now to take him, you muſt have a ſtrong piece of three twiſt Pack-thred, of thirty Yards long, with a Plummet at the end, of a quarter of a Pound weight; which caſt beyond the Line, between your Boy and the *Pike*, and let it ſink, and it will bring you both Boy and *Pike*: So that, try all the wayes that are, you will find none ſo pleaſant or profitable as this, to take a *Pike*.

Many uſe to Troule for a *Pike*; but that is ſo eaſie, that I ſhall not ſpend time in giving Directions: For, it will be far eaſier learnt, by once going with any Perſon that underſtands it, in ones day time, than is poſſible to be Taught by a Printed Direction. So much for the Taking of him. Now for the Dreſſing of him.

All *Pikes*, that are not half a Yard long, are fitter to be Fryed or Boyled, than any other way; but for a *Pike* to exceed that Length, either little or more, Roaſt him in this manner:

Firſt, Open your *Pike* at the Gills, and if need be, give a little cutt towards his Belly; out of theſe take his Guts, but keep his Liver, which you are to ſhred very ſmall with Tyme, Sweet-Marjerome, and a little Winter-Savory; to theſe put ſome Pickled *Oyſters*, and ſome *Anchovies*, two or three of both, the laſt whole (for the *Anchovies* will melt, and the *Oyſters* ſhould not); to theſe add a Pound of Sweet-Butter, which you are to mix with the Herbs that are ſhred; and let them all be well Salted: thoſe being mixed with a Blade or two of Mace, muſt be put into the *Pike*'s Belly, and then his Belly ſowed up ſo cloſe, that, if poſſible, it may keep all the Butter in his Belly. Take not off his Scales: Then you are to thruſt the Spit through his Mouth, out at the Tayle: And then with five or ſix ſplit Stixs, or very thin Lathes, with a good quantity of Filliting. Theſe Lathes are to be tyed round about the *Pikes* Belly, from his Head to his Tayle, and the Tape tyed ſomething thick to prevent his breaking or falling from off the Spit. Let him be Roaſted very leaſurely, and often

often Baſted with Claret VVine, and *Anchovies*, and Butter, mixt together; and alſo, with what Moyſture falls from him into the Pan.

VVhen you have Roaſted him ſufficiently, you are to hold under him, (when you unwind, or cutt the Tape that tyes him) ſuch a Diſh as you intend to eat him out of, and let him fall into it, with the Sauce which is Roaſted in his Belly; and by this means the *Pike* will be kept unbroken, and compleat. Then, to the Sauce which was within, and alſo in the Pan, you are to add a fit Quantity of good Butter, and to ſqueeze the Juyce of three or four Oranges: Laſtly, You may either put into the *Pike*, with the *Oyſters*, two Cloves of Garlick, and take it whole out, when the *Pike* is cutt off the Spit; or, to give the Sauce a Hogo, let the Diſh (into which you let the *Pike* fall) be rubbed with it. The uſing, or not uſing of this Garlick, is left to your Diſcretion.

E. H.

So much of the Taking of a Pike, *and the Beſt way of Dreſſing of him.*

I ſhall now come to the way of Fiſhing for, and Dreſſing of a
TROUT.

Of the Trout.

The Nature of His Breeding, and the Place of His Haunts; and How to take Him either with Worm, Minnow, *or* Fly.

HE is an Excellent *Fiſh*, and highly admired by all People, in all Nations. He hath ſome-thing of the Nature of Veniſon, being ſo like to a *Buck*, that he comes-in, and goes out of Seaſon, even as the *Stag* and *Buck* do.

He may claym Place of all Freſh-Water *Fiſh*, for Precedency, and Daintineſs of Taſt; for, the moſt Curious Palats, when he hath been in Seaſon, have admired him.

He is at his Perfection in *May*, and doth Decline, as before, with the *Buck*.

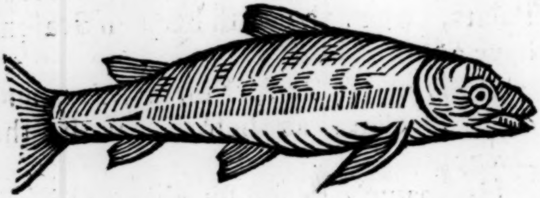
He Spawn's generally about *October*, or *November*.

His Haunts are in gravelly clear *Rivers*, in the moſt Shady Places. He delights much near *Wires*, and *Fludgates*, and any Falls of *Waters*.

His Baits are, uſually, that he is Caught with, a *Worm*, or a *Minnow*, or elſe with a *Flye*, *viz.* either Natural, or Artificial *Flye*.

Firſt of *Worms*; there are many, as Earth-VVorms; others that are bred of Plants, as the Dug'd-VVorme; others of Excrements, or in the Bodies of Creatures, as the *Maggot*, or *Gentle*, &c. But of all theſe, the *Dew*, or *Lob-Worm*, and the *Brandling*, are the beſt for a *Trout*.

And if you would catch ſo large a *Trout* as this,



take the *Lob-Worme.* And your beſt way is to put them to ſome Moſſe, till they are poor, by cleanſing themſelves; and then, by giving them the Yolk of an Egg, they will become lively, and fit for uſe: But if you are ſtraitned for VVorms, ſqueeze ſome VVall-nut Tree-Leaves in water, which poured upon the ground, will make them riſe out of hand.

Now to Bait your Hook neatly, that it may Trole or Runn upon the Ground, without Tangling, or Catching againſt any Sticks, Gravel, or Weeds, obſerve:

If you have a big *Lob-Worme*, put your Hook into it, ſome-what above the middle, and out again, a little below the middle; having ſo done, draw your Worme above the Arming of your Hook. But note, That at the entring of your Hook, it muſt not be at the Head-end of the Worme; becauſe the Point of your Hook may come out towards the Head-end: and having drawn him above the Arming of your Hook, then put the Point of your Hook again into the very Head of the Worme, till it come near the place where the Point of the Hook firſt came out, and then draw back that part of the Worme that was above the Shank, or Arming of the Hook, and ſo Fiſh with it.

But if you mean to Fiſh with two Worms, which you may do: If one be not big enough, then put the ſecond Worme, before you turn back the Hook's head of the firſt Worme. So a little trying will make you Expert; and you may Fiſh without danger of Stopping or Catching upon any gravel, or the like.

For the Minnows.

They may be had eaſily in *March* or *April*; for then they appear in the

River, where you may take them at your Pleaſure: Of which, for to take a Trout, the middle ſize are beſt, and muſt be ſo put upon your Hook, that it muſt turn round, when it is drawn againſt the Stream; and for the nimbler turning thereof, put it upon a big ſized Hook, which put in, at his Mouth, and out at his Gill; then your Hook being drawn two or three Inches beyond his Gill, put it again into his Mouth, and the Point and Beard out at his Tayle; and then tye the Hook, and his Tayle very neatly, with a white Thred or Silk, which will make it the apter to turn quick in the Water: That being done, pull back that part of your Line, which was ſlack, when you put your hook into the *Minnow*, the ſecond time: So that, it ſhall faſten the Head; and the Body of the *Minnow* ſhall be almoſt ſtraight on your Hook. Then try how it will turn, by drawing it croſs the Water, or againſt the Stream; and ſo turn the Tayle to your right or left hand, till it turns to pleaſe you; if not, you're not likely to catch any thing; if you cannot get a *Minnow*, a *Loach* or a *Stickle*-bag, will ſerve neer as

to fish for the trout in the Night

Take 2 great wormes of equal length, and put them on your hooke; cast them at a good distance from you and draw them to you againe on the top of the water, not letting them sinke giving him time to gorge his baite; instead of the wormes you may use black snailes of either kind & like them they eate them; best in still deepes

well: If you can get an Artificial *Minnow* at the Shops, you had beſt take one with you, leſt you fail elſewhere.

As for Flyes.

I think either for *Trout*, or any other *Fiſh*, that will riſe at *Flyes*, thoſe that they riſe-at moſt, that Seaſon when you Fiſh for them, are the beſt to take them with; and there are ſo many, that I cannot (for fear of making my little Piece ſwell beyond its Price) ſtand to name them.

Now, as to the *Artificial Flyes*, take only this Rule with you; that is, To provide all Colours of Silk, and Feathers, and ſuch things as are convenient for the making of them: and never go about to make one, Artificially, without a Natural one before you, what-ever it is you would imitate; But you had better go, or ſend, to the *Three Fiſhes*, over-againſt the little *North-Door* of St. *Pauls*, in *London*, where you may have them Better and Cheaper, than you can make them; *And ſo much of the* Trout.

Of the Barbel.

His Haunts, Baits, and the Manner of Taking him.

THey are a *Fiſh*, that love to keep one another Company dearly, and flock together much; They are at worſt in *April*, at which time they Spawne; But are not long before they come in Seaſon again.

He loves (all the Summer) the Shallow, and Sharp Streams, and lies lurking under Weeds, and feeds moſt on Gravel, againſt a riſing Ground; For, he Roots with his Noſe like a Hog, and Neſts himſelf in the Gravel.

He loves alſo ſuch places as *London-Bridge*, or any deep Place, where the Fierceneſs of the Water, ſtirs the Gravel; where he will take hold of Moſſe, or Weeds, that the Water, though never ſo fierce, is not able to ſtir him.

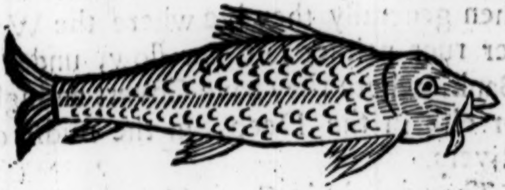
He is mighty Curious in his Baits,

and if they be not Sweet and Clean, he will not touch them; therefore you muſt have your Wormes well ſcoured with Moſſe, and he will bite at a well-ſcoured Lob-worme, as boldly, as at any Bait whatſoever: But your beſt way will be, to Bait the Place where you intend to Fiſh for them, with ſome Lob-Wormes, cutt to pieces, a night or two before you go to Fiſh.

You cannot Bait too much; nor well Fiſh too early, or late, for him.

Gentiles are alſo a good Bait for him; but then they muſt not be ſcoured. Many uſe Cheeſe, which is alſo a good Bait.

He is a very fine *Fiſh*, to look on; but not ſo good as he ſeems to be.



So much of the Barbel.

Of

Of the Cheven, or Chub.

His Haunts, Baits, and Manner of Taking him; as alſo, The beſt way of Dreſſing him.

THE *Chubs* or *Chevens*, (in hot Weather) lye playing together, under the Shade of Willows, or Weeds; and when the Sun ſhines not, then generally they lye where the Water runs neither faſt nor ſlow, under a Bank, where they have Covert enough, or elſe in the Deep, in the midſt of Rivers.

They delight in *Graſs-Hoppers, Snails, Paſte*, or *Cheeſe*, of which I ſhall give you an account, when you come to my *Method of Hackney Fiſh*. I ſhall only here give you Directions, how you

may,

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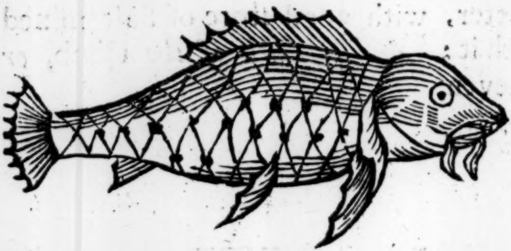
may, the beſt way, Dreſſe this *Chub*, or *Cheven*, *viz.*

Firſt, ſcale him, and then waſh him clean, and take out his Guts; and to that end, make the Hole as little, and as near to his Gills as you can poſſibly; and eſpecially make clean his Throat from the Graſſe, and VVeeds, that are uſually in it (for elſe if that be not clean, it will make him taſt mighty Sowr); having ſo done, put ſome Sweet Herbs into his Belly, and then tye him with two or three Splinters to a Spit, and Roaſt him, baſted often with Vinegar; or rather Verjuce and Butter, with good ſtore of Salt mixed with it; *And ſo much of the* Chub, *or* Cheven.

Of the Carp.

His Haunts, Baits, and Way to Fiſh *for him, and to Dreſſe him.*

NOw if you have a mind to Catch this *Carp*, that is ſo Cunning, and Difficult to be Caught;



Firſt, You muſt expect to have your Patience ſufficiently tyred, if you Fiſh for a *River-Carp*; and like-wiſe in ſome *Ponds* too: If you intend to do any good with him, you muſt be at him either early or late; For, they will not bite in the middle of the day. You muſt (if you fiſh in a Pond for a *Carp*) firſt, throw in Blood and Grains, or the like, to bring them to the place where you would Fiſh; and then ſome of the ſame Bait which you intend to Angle with.

The *Carp* bites either at Worms or Paſte.

The blew-Marſh or Medow-Worm, is beſt for him. When he is in the Humour, he will ſome-times bite at a large Gentle: And for Paſtes, there are more ſorts, than there are ſorts of Fiſhes; but ſweet-Paſtes are beſt, that are made either with Sugar or Honey: Which (that you may the better beguile him, he being ſo cunning) ſhould be thrown where you intend to Fiſh, an hour or two before you undertake your skill with your Angle-Rod: And your beſt Bait is made of the Fleſh of a *Rabbet*, *Kitling*, cutt ſmall; and Bean-Flower: and if that may not be gotten, other Flower; mix them together, and put thereto either Honey, or Sugar; and beat them together in a Mortar, ſometime working them in your Hands, being very clean, and make it into a Ball or two, as you think fitteſt for your uſe.

If you Fiſh for a Carp with Gentles, put upon your Hook a ſmall piece of Scarlet about this bigneſs ▬, it being ſoaked in Oyle of *Peter*, or *Rock-Oyle*, and you are like-lier to Kill this cunning Fiſh this way, than by any other: But ſtill, as you are Fiſhing, Chew a little Bread in your Mouth, and caſt it into the Place where you fiſh.

To Dreſſe a Carp.

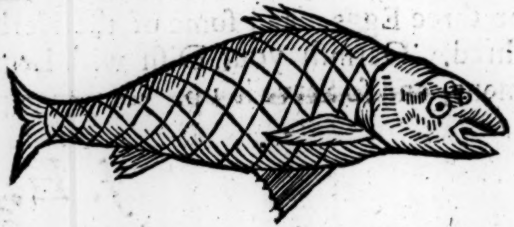
If you can take him alive, ſcove him, and rub him clean with VVater and Salt: But ſcale him not then. Open him, and put him, with his Blood, and Liver (which you muſt ſave when you open him) into a ſmall Pot or Kettle. Then take Sweet-Marjerome, Tyme, and Parſley, of each half a handful; A Sprig of Roſe-Mary, and another of Savory; bind them in two or three ſmall bundles, and put them to your *Carp*, with four or five whole Onions, twenty Pickled Oyſters, and three Anchovies; Then put upon the *Carp* as much Claret as will cover him; and ſeaſon your Claret well with Salt, Cloves, and Mace, and the Rinds of Oranges and Lemmons. Cover your Pot, and ſet it on a quick Fire, till it be ſufficiently boyled: then take out the *Carp*, and lay it with the Broth into the Diſh, and pour upon it a quarter of a Pound of Freſh Butter, melted, and beaten with half a dozen Spoonfuls of Broth, the Yolkes of two or three Eggs, and ſome of the Herbs ſhred. Garniſh your Diſh with Lemmons, and ſo Serve it up.

J. H.

So much of the Carp.

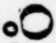
Of the *Bream*,

And how to Take him.



TO take this *Fiſh,* called the *Bream,* obſerve, That *Breams* do moſt of all love *Ponds*, and *Meres*; but the chiefeſt way to Take them, is; firſt, Get as big a *Red-Worm* as you can find without a knot: Get a pint of them,or more, in an Evening, in a Garden, after a Showr of Rain; and put them, with clean Moſs, well waſhed,pick'd, & the Water ſqueezed out of the Moſſe, as dry as you can, into an Earthen-Pot; and change the Moſſe for three or four dayes, for three weeks,

weeks, or a month together; and then your Baits will be in a good condition.

Having your Baits ready, get your Tackling in this manner; Take three long Angling-Rods, and as many, and more Silk-Lines, and as many large *Gooſe-*, or rather *Swan*-Quill-Floats; Then take a piece of Lead made thus  and faſten them to the lower end of your Lines: Then faſten your Link-Hook alſo to the Lead; and to the end of your Line: Let there be about a foot, or ten inches, between the Lead and the Hook, (but be ſure the Lead be heavy enough to ſink the Float or Quills under-water, and not the Quill to bear up the Lead); and the Link, next your Hook, muſt be ſmaller than the reſt of your Line; if you dare venture for fear of a *Pike*, or *Pearch.*

Now, the Worm being well baited, it will crawle up and down, as far as the Lead will give it leave; which much enticeth the *Fiſh* to bite without Suſpition.

Your Float muſt be (part of it) an Inch above the Water: Then where you think there is *Fiſh*, Angle: But firſt note, That you muſt bait your

Ground at Night, and Fiſh about four in the Morning; and without doubt, you will not fail of Sport enough.

So much for Bream-Fiſhing.

* * *

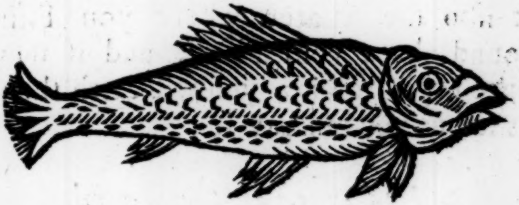
Of

* * *

Of the Tench,

And how to Fiſh *for Him.*

A *Tench* is the Doctor, as I may ſay, to all other *Fiſhes*; and delighteth more in *Ponds*, and *Pits*, than in *Rivers*. And if you will Catch this *Tench*, be ſure, firſt, where-ever you *Angle*, to throw in ſome ſweet Ground-bait: and know, that his Biting-time is about nine in the Morning: But you may Fiſh for him from ſeven till eleven, and probably have good Sport, if there be ſtore in the Place where you Fiſh; and if you follow theſe Directions following, *viz.*



He will bite at Paſte made of Brown-Bread, and Honey, or at a *Marſh-Worm*.

He delights much in any Paſte, wherewith Tar is mixed.

He will bite alſo at a ſmaller Worm, with his Head nipped off; and at a Cod-VVorm, put on the Hook before.

He onely bites in the three hotteſt Months in the year; For, in the other nine, he ſtirs not at all.

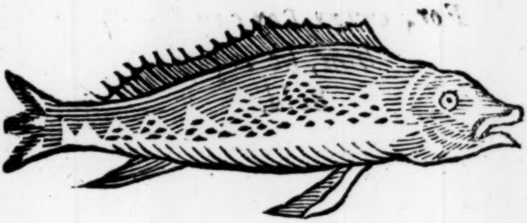
VVhatſoever Bait you fiſh for him with, be ſure you dip it in Tar; and be chewing ſtill ſome of the Crum of a White-Loafe; and be often a caſting of it into the Water where you Fiſh, round about your Float; and if they once begin to bite, you will catch them as faſt as you can Lay-in:

And ſo much of the Tench.

Of the *Pearch.*

And how to Take Him.

HE delights moſt in deep places, and in Holes by little Streams, where the ſmall Fiſh come: And where you muſt Angle, if you will Catch *Pearch*;



He is a very bold biting *Fiſh*; and if you light on a Hole, where there be never ſo many, you may take them all at one Standing.

His Baits are, a *Worm*, a *Minnow*, or a little *Frog*; of which you may find many in Hay-time; and the beſt Worm is a *Brandling*, which you will find in moſt Dung-hills; but they muſt be well ſcoured in *Moſſe*, or Fennel; or a *Worm* that lies under a *Cow-Turd*, with a blewiſh-head.

If you Fiſh for him with a *Minnow*-bait, as I directed you to bait for a *Trout*: Obſerve to keep your *Minnow*, fiſhing for a *Pearch*, at mid-water, by the help of a Cork; But be ſure, what-ever you Fiſh with, give a *Pearch* time enough in biting; for he will not leave you.

And this is ſufficient for Mr. Pearch;
For, every Boy can Catch
him, he is ſo
Bold.

Of *Eeles*,

And how to Take them; their Haunts, &c. *and how to Dreſſe them.*

AN *Eele* is Caught by more Baits than any other Fiſh; For, they are ſo greedy, that they will bite at powder'd-Beef; and be taken with a *Lob-Worm*, or a *Garden-Worm*; with a *Minnow*, or Gut of a *Hen, Chicken*, or the Guts of any *Fiſh*: But the *Eele* may be (eſpecially) taken with a very little *Lamprey*; but ſome call it a Pride: and may (in the hot Months) be found in the River *Thames*.

Now an *Eele* never (except it be by chance) ſtirs in the day-time; and therefore, are uſually Caught in the night, by laying a Line, with a many Hooks to it, croſs a *River* or *Pond*; baited with ſome of the afore-ſaid Baits: But theſe are Things ſo common, that it is not worth while to write of. But there is a very pretty way to take them, which is called *Snigling*, which is thus; Obſerve your time (which muſt be in a hot Summers-day) when the Water is loweſt, you may take a ſtrong ſmall hook, tyed to a ſmall ſtrong Line, about a yard long: And then (becauſe that the *Eeles* hide themſelves under Board-Planks, about *Floud-gates*, or *Wires*, or *Mills*, or in Holes in the *River-Banks*,) you may put into one of theſe Holes, or between any Boards about a Mill, or under any great Stone, or Plank, or any Place where you think an *Eele* may hide, or ſhelter her ſelf) there (by the help of a ſhort Stick) put-in your Bait; but leaſurely, and as far as you can conveniently; And if there be an *Eel* there, he will certainly gorge up your Bait; and you need not doubt to have him, if you pull him not out too ſoon, but by degrees: And ſee, here he comes.

How

How to Dreſſe this Eele.

Firſt, Waſh him in Water and Salt, and then pull off his skin, below his Rent, or Navel, and not much farther: Having done that, take out his Guts as clean as you can; but waſh him not. Then give him three or four Scotches with a Knife; and put into his Belly, & into theſe Scotches, Sweet-Herbs, and *Anchovies*, and a little grated *Nutmeg*; and your Herbs, and *Anchovies* muſt alſo be cutt very ſmall, and mixed with good Butter and Salt. Having done this, then pull his skin over all but his Head, which you muſt cutt off. By the reaſon you may tye the skin over the end where his Head grew, it muſt needs keep all his Moyſture within his Skin.

Then tye him to a Spit, with Tape or Pack-thred, and Roaſt him leaſurely; and baſte him with Water and Salt, till his skin breaks: And then with Butter, having Roaſted him enough, let what was put into his Belly, and what he dropt, be his Sawce: *And ſo far of* Eeles.

FINIS.

THE
METHOD
OF
FISHING
IN
HACKNEY-RIVER;

WITH THE
Names of all the beſt STANDS
There; and the manner of Making
the beſt TACKLING to Fiſh There,
or in any *Pond*, or *River*, whatſoever.

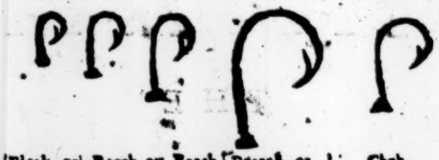
By *WILLIAM GILBERT*, Gent.

LONDON:
Printed by *T. M.* for *W. Birch*, at the
Sign of the *Peacock*, at the Lower-
end of *Cheap-ſide*, 1676.

THE
Anglers Delight:
OR, THE
Method of Fiſhing in *Hackney-River*.

Of making the *Tackle*.

FIrſt, You muſt be provided with a good *Angle-Rod*, of at leaſt four Yards, when it is at the ſhorteſt; which muſt be Taper all the way: And to take in ſo many pieces, that you may make it of what length you pleaſe. Then you muſt go, and buy ſome Hooks, of all theſe ſizes, *viz.*

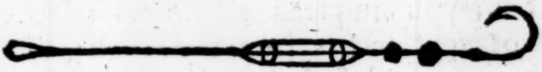


Next, You muſt be provided with excellent ſtrong, round, long, and white or gray Stone-Horſe-Hair; Silk to whip your Hooks with, and Wax to wax the Silk.

Then muſt you have *Swans*, and *Gooſe*-quill-Floats, of all ſizes; And for *Chub*-Lines, or *Barbel*-Lines, you may buy them Cheaper of Silk and Hair, than you can make them: But for Hair-Lines, you will not meet with any to be ſold, that you can do any good with, in *Hackney-River*: Therefore, being thus provided, begin to make (firſt) a Line for the *Chub*, or *Cheven*; putting eight Hairs in the firſt Link next your Rod; and ſo make it Taper (by leaving out a Hair every other Link) till you have made it; when it comes to the laſt, to be but four or five Hairs at the

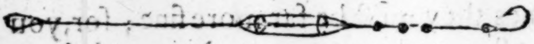
the bottom; to which, tye ſuch a Hook as is before deſcribed for the *Chub*.

Next, You muſt put on a Float, one of the largeſt you have; and Lead, in manner following: So that Line, Float, Lead, Hook, and all (being fixed together) will be thus



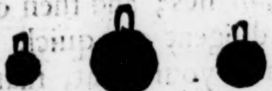
Now, for your *Roach*, and *Dace*-lines, they muſt be far more fine; for, you muſt not (by any means) exceed above one Hair, at, or next the *H*ook, or two at the moſt; for, if you do, where you take one *Fiſh*, they that Fiſh with a ſingle Hair, will catch half a dozen: And obſerve, that, be it for what *Fiſh* you will, the finer you Fiſh, the more, and larger *Fiſh* you will Catch. But you muſt never be without your Landing-Hook, or Landing-Net.

You may for *Roaches*, put three hairs next your Rod, and two about the middle; but at the bottom only one: And theſe Lines ought to be a yard, or a half-yard ſhorter than your Rods, for your conveniency of ſtriking your Fiſh: And you muſt fit them with three ſizes of Float, though you have *H*air at the *H*ook; that is to ſay, the larger Floated Line for ſwift Streams, the middling ſize for Streams that run ſlow, and the ſmalleſt of all, which ought to be of a *Duck*'s Quill: for thoſe which ſcarce move at all, you muſt leaden them with ſmall Shot, eight Inches from the *H*ook; and then you will find this Line to be thus Compleat,



When you have two or three of a ſort of theſe Lines, and Shots, and Floates, Links, *H*ooks, and Supplies for every thing that you can poſſibly uſe; then go to Mother *Gibert's*, at the *Flower-de-Luce* at *Clapton*, near *Hackney*, and whilſt you are drinking of a Pot *Ale*, bid the *M*aid make you two or three Peny-worth of *Ground-Bait*, and ſome *Paſte* (which they do very neatly, and well); and obſerving of them, you will know how to make it your ſelf for any other Place: which is too tedious here to Inſert.

Then go down to *Cunnis-Hole*, or elſe *Maries-Hole*; where pull out your *Tackle*, and Fiſh there-abouts; Firſt, Plumming your Ground exactly, that your *Paſte* may ſwim within half an Inch of the bottom.

The Plummets muſt be made of Lead, with a Pin in them, after this manner,  ſome bigger, and ſome leſſer, according to the ſize of your Line: And be ſure that you find your Ground eeven at the bottom; and if it be between two little Aſcents, the Place is the better.

Then ſeeing your Float ſwim, according as you would have it, you muſt (in that very Place) throw in ſome of your Ground-Bait; and if it be in a Stream, you muſt knead a little Pibble Stone, into ſome of your Ground-Bait, in the faſhion of a Ball, of this ſize; and that will ſink it to the bottom, which otherwiſe the Water would cary away: And when you have thrown in five

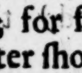
or ſix of theſe Balls, you may Fiſh there.

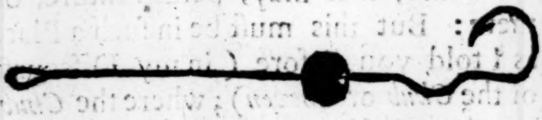
The more you are out of ſight the better; and you muſt be ſure that you put not a bigger Bait upon the Point of your Hook, of your *Red-Paſte*, than this ſize, *viz.* ●; For, if you do, the *Fiſh* will bob & bob at it, and make you think you have a Bite, when you have not.

Now, you muſt obſerve, That your Float ſwim juſt over the Place, where your *Ground-Bait* lies; and then obſerving (with a diligent and quick Eye) the firſt Motion of your Float, that then you ſtrike gently; and, according as as you find the weight of the Fiſh you have hold of, to play him: You need not doubt of Sport enough, following but theſe Directions.

There is an excellent *Stand*, in the ſecond *Meddow*, on the left-hand, beyond the *Ferry*, under a *Willow-Tree*; in the midſt of the *Meddow*, by the Water-ſide.

But in my former Piece (where I did ſpeak of the *Chub*), I did promiſe that I would give farther Directions for the Taking of him; So that, now, I intend to perform it. And now, when you have filled your Basket of *Roach*, and *Dace*, or elſe the Wind is ſo high, that you cannot well Angle for them, or that you find they will not bite; then I would have you try this way (which I am going about to teach you) to Take a *Chub*: And firſt, obſerve, That here are large ones in *Hackney*; and therefore, provide you ſtrong Silk, and Hair Lines, with your *Swan*'s-Quill-Floats, as was before directed: And walk either up or down the River, till you ſee a Place clear from Weeds, that you can ſwim your Float half a ſcore yards without danger of Entangling: But if you knew the place before, it would be better; for fear your coming too near the Water ſhould fright away the *Chubs*, that may, peradventure, be there: But this muſt be in ſuch a Place as I told you before (in my Diſcourſe of the *Chub* or *Cheven*); where the *Chub*, or *Cheven*'s Haunts are.

Then muſt you keep as much out of ſight as you can, that you can but juſt ſee the Top of your Float ſwim; And having baited your Hook with a Pellet of *Paſte* thus big , you muſt firſt throw in a Ball of your Ground-bait, about as big as a Walnut without a ſtone in it, a little broken between your Fingers; and then follow it with your baited Hook, and it is very likely you will have a Fiſh within eight or ten Swims, or elſe there is none there. But trying two or three likely Places, you need not doubt of having a good *Chub*, or *Cheven*. If you fail in your Expectation of *Chub-Fiſhing*, then be upon the Drable for a *Barbel*, which is in this nature: You muſt have a ſtrong Line, of about ſix yards long of Hair and Silk; which muſt be put (before you faſten it to your Rod) through a piece of Lead thus



that it may ſlip to and fro, if any thing bite at it; and that the Water may move it upon the Ground, which will entice the *Barbel* to bite without Suſpicion of Danger: And being baited with a good *Lob-Worm*, it is not much to be queſtioned, but you will Catch a *Barbel*.

Ho

How to Make the Ground-Bait.

NOw, by reaſon that ſome People in the Country may be ignorant of the way of Making this *Ground-Bait*, I thought meet to let ſuch know, that it is made by cutting a two-penny, or three penny Loafe (according to the quantity you would make) into Slices, and lay them in ſoake into a Platter of fair Water; which, being ſoaked half a quarter of an Hour, powr the Water from it; and with Bran,make the Bread up into a Stiffe *Paſte*; and then make that *Paſte* up into two or three large Balls for your uſe; which you muſt make uſe of according to my former Directions. But note, If you Fiſh in a *Pond* you need not put Stones into your Bait, but rather Crumble it.

To make Paſte.

THis is made by the cutting off, of the Cruſt of a White-Loafe, that is two or three dayes old; and holding it in your hands, being clean waſhed, about two Minutes in fair Water till it be ſoaked; then ſqueeze out the Water: and (with a little Pains in working of it in your hands) it will come to be a very ſtiffe *Paſte*, and hang mightily upon the Hook without waſhing off. You may colour it with a little red Lead, either more or leſs, according as you find it moſt agreeable to the colour of the Water where you Fiſh.

There are many ſorts of *Paſtes*; but I eſteem this the beſt for any Fiſh, excepting a *Carp*; for, they love ſweet *Paſtes* beſt, as thoſe made of *Bean-Flower*, *Honey*, &c.

I might ſay more, but I think this ſufficient; only letting you know, that if you would be ſet-out like a *Fiſher-man*, as you ought to be: Then, when-ever you go out to Fiſh, faill not to have with you, *viz.*

A good Coat for all Weathers.
An *Apron* to put your *Ground-Bait, Stones,* and *Paſte* in.
A Basket to put your *Fiſh* in.
A neat-*Rod* of about four Foot long, in ſeveral pieces, one within another.
Two or three Lines fitted up, of all Sorts.
Spare *Hooks, Links, Floats, Silk, Wax, Plummets, Caps, Floats,* and a *Landing-Nett,* &c.

And if you have a Boy to go along with you, a good *Neats-Tongue,* and a Bottle of *Canary* ſhould not be wanting: To the Enjoyment of which I leave You.

FINIS.